

PATENT SPECIFICATION

596.937

Application Date: Aug. 7, 1945.

No. 20154/45.

Complete Specification Left: Aug. 10, 1945.

Complete Specification Accepted: Jan. 14, 1948.



PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Improvements in Sinks

I, SYBIL VERA WELCH, 206, Hendon Way, London, N.W.4, British, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

It is well known to housewives and others who have the duty of washing dishes in a domestic sink that remnants of food, together with peelings and parings of vegetables, collect in the vent or waste-pipe of the sink and clog the same and the housewife has to be constantly clearing this vent in order to allow the water to go down. This is probably the most disagreeable item in the notably disagreeable task of washing up dishes.

The object of the present invention is to overcome the difficulty referred to above by providing a sink which will not clog up and from which refuse can very easily be removed.

According to my invention, I provide a "well" or hollow in the sink, preferably in the bottom, and the conventional vent-and-plug (or other known form of closure) is at the bottom of this well. A wire-mesh basket or similar contrivance, open at the top, fits into the well, and the refuse collects in this basket, which can easily be removed, emptied and replaced. For simplicity of description, and without limiting myself thereby, I will give more precise details of one form and size this "well" may take. Imagine an ordinary sink, with circular vent-hole say 2" in diameter, provided with a brass plug or stopper. Now imagine that a circle say 6" in diameter is drawn on the floor of the sink, concentric with the vent, and that this 6" circular part of the sink-bottom is pushed downwards, vent-hole and all, to a depth of say 4". We now have a sink with a circular well in its floor at one part, 6" diameter, 4" deep, and at the bottom of this well a 2" vent-hole, with plug of the conventional type.

Now I provide a wire-mesh cage or basket, circular, of 6" diameter, 4" deep, open at the top, to fit snugly into this well, so as to catch the refuse, this basket being, if desired, provided with suitable loops or other means of taking hold of it conveniently for lifting it out and replacing it.

Finally, I provide a "cover" for the well, which may be in the form of a brass, steel, or moulded "plug", similar to the conventional 2" plug but 6" in diameter, to fit into and flush with the floor of the sink and so cover the top of the well and close the sink so that it can be filled with water if desired. A suitable ring or rim may, of course, be fitted around the upper rim of the well, into which this 6" cover fits.

In the centre of this 6" plug, a 2" circular hole may be provided into which the conventional 2" plug will fit.

Now as to the use of the improved sink:—

(a) Normally, the wire basket is in the well, and the 2" vent at the bottom of the well is open (plug removed). Any refuse collects in the basket, whilst the water runs away. (b) If preferred, however, I put on the large cover (6") with the 2" hole in the centre, and then the floor of my sink is exactly the same as in the conventional sink with a 2" vent (except that there is no grid across the 2" hole to cause clogging, as in the ordinary sink). (c) Finally, if I wish to fill the sink with water (e.g. for washing clothes) I simply put the 2" plug in the centre-hole of the 6" cover and proceed in the ordinary way. When I wish to let the water out, I remove the 2" plug from the 6" cover. I only remove the 6" cover when I find the basket is full and I wish to empty it. There is really no occasion ever to put the 2" plug into the vent at the bottom of the well at all.

In short, my improved sink is used exactly as an ordinary sink, except that the vent does not get clogged up, and refuse goes freely and without obstruction through the top vent and into the basket. Instead of the housewife having to use her fingers incessantly to remove refuse from the vent, all she has to do is (occasionally) to empty the basket.

It is evident that the "well", in my invention, may be of any suitable shape or dimensions. The top of the well may be provided with a suitable ledge, in which the large cover sits. The loose cover may have rubber around its perimeter, for

Best Available Copy

better fitting, or rubber may be provided in the rim or ring around the upper edge of the "well".

I do not limit myself as to the details of my invention as herein described or

indicated, but may modify or elaborate the same to suit requirements.

Dated this 6th day of August, 1945.
SYBIL V. WELCH.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in Sinks

10 I, SYBIL VERA WELCH, 206, Hendon Way, London, N.W.4. British, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

15 It is well known to housewives and others who have the task of washing dishes in a domestic sink that remnants of food, together with peelings and parings of vegetables, collect in the vent or waste-pipe of the sink and clog the same and the housewife has to be constantly clearing this vent in order to allow the water to go down. This is probably the most disagreeable item in the notably disagreeable task of washing up dishes.

20 The object of the present invention is to overcome the difficulty referred to above by providing a sink which will not clog up and from which refuse can very easily be removed.

30 In order to mitigate the difficulty referred to above, it has been proposed to use a sink with a well or depression in the floor of the sink, in which a strainer basket is housed so as to collect the refuse. As small dishes and other small objects are apt to fall into this strainer basket, however, it has been proposed to provide some kind of lid to the well, which can be opened or closed or removed, but adjustable lids of this kind are apt to be very complicated in construction and to give trouble in operation after the mechanism has for a long time being exposed to the action of hot water and the various acid and alkaline solutions passing from the sink.

50 In order to overcome these difficulties and to provide a sink with a well and strainer, but which is absolutely simple and foolproof in operation, I provide, according to my invention, a removable lid for the well and this removable lid has its perimeter substantially flush with the floor of the sink and has at its centre a hole or aperture which in turn may be closed by a removable stopper. I have also found it very convenient to have this aperture in the centre of the removable lid of the well the same size as the normal vent hole of the sink at the bottom of the well so that one and the same stopper may

be used to close either the normal vent hole or the aperture in the centre of the said removable lid of the well.

65 I may now for simplicity refer to the accompanying drawing which shows one form of the invention and serves to illustrate the main features of the same.

70 The numerals 1, 1 indicate cross-section of part of the floor of the sink and this has been formed with the well shown by the numerals 2, 2. The numerals 8, 8 indicate a brass ring or inset such as is commonly provided around the vent of a sink and in which the plug sits. In the present case the large lid 9, 9 is provided and this may, if desired, be slightly dished or hollowed as shown in the drawing so as to facilitate the disposal of refuse down the centre hole, which is shown closed by the conventional plug 10. The normal vent 3 is shown at the bottom of the well and in the drawing the conventional plug 10 is shown in position but it will be understood that the upper and lower positions for this conventional plug 10 are alternative. The numerals 4, 4 indicate a brass or similar ring or linear of the conventional type around the vent and a cross-section of the usual grid 7 is shown. The screw 6 passing downwards from this grid serves to secure the waste-pipe 5 in the usual way. Inside the well is a wire mesh basket 11 which is secured to an upper metal band 12 and this has the upper part turned over into a lip 13 which rests in the metal inset 8. This lip is indicated also by the dotted line 14. It will be noted that the plug 10 both in the upper and lower positions is shown loosely fitting in its seating and in the same way the lid 9, 9 is shown loosely fitting in the ring 8, 8, but it will be understood that these seatings are intended in practice to be substantially watertight and they are shown separated in the diagram merely for the purpose of clearness of illustration.

110 It will be seen that in ordinary use the lid 9, 9 can be left off or more conveniently the lid 9, 9 may be left in position and the plug 10 removed from its centre, leaving a central hole in the lid 9, 9. If, for example, dishes are being washed under running water from the tap, remnants of food and other refuse

will be washed down the central hole of the lid 9, 9 and will fall into the wire basket 11, the water running away through the basket and down the vent 3, the plug 10 being, of course, removed from the lower position.

If, however, it is desired to fill the sink with water (for example, for the purpose of washing dishes in a limited quantity of hot water, as is a very common practice) then the plug 10 is inserted in position in the centre of the lid 9, 9 and after the dishes are washed the plug 10 is simply removed from that position and the water passes through and the refuse is retained by the basket 11 as before.

There is normally no need ever to put the plug 10 into the vent at the bottom of the well, but the two holes, that is, the hole at the bottom of the well and the hole in the centre of the lid 9, 9 may conveniently be made the same size so that the one plug 10 will do in either position if ever required. But it will be understood that normally the plug is never put into the vent at the bottom of the well with this invention, that vent being normally always open.

I have found that it is convenient to have the well of circular shape in plan, of a diameter of some 6" and a depth of some 4" but, of course, it may be made of any other suitable shape or dimensions and the plate or lid 9, 9 may be adapted accordingly. This lid 9, 9 is shown dished in the diagram but it may be plane and flush with the floor of the sink if desired. The lid 9, 9 may be fitted with rubber or other similar material around its perimeter for better fitting or rubber may be provided in the rim or ring 8; 8 around the upper edge of the well.

When it is desired to empty the refuse which has collected in the wire basket 11, it is only necessary to lift out the lid 9, 9

(when the plug 10 is absent it is quite easy simply to put the fingers into the central hole of this lid and so lift it) when the wire basket 11 can be lifted out and emptied, the basket being then reinserted in the well and the lid 9, 9 put back into its position as shown in the drawing.

It will also be seen that with the dimensions mentioned above for the well, if by any chance any refuse should by accident find its way into the lower vent 3, this vent is for all practical purposes just as accessible to the hand (the wire basket being removed) as though it had been in the conventional position in the floor of the sink.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A sink comprising a well in the floor of the sink adapted to receive a strainer basket and including an outlet for the sink, and having a removable lid for the said well, said lid having its perimeter substantially flush with the floor of the sink, and having a hole at the centre, fitted with a removable stopper, substantially as described.

2. The sink with well, strainer basket and removable lid with centre hole and stopper, as in Claim 1, in which said hole in said removable lid is of the same size as the normal vent-hole at the bottom of the well, so that one and the same stopper may be used to stop either the normal vent-hole or said hole in the centre of said removable lid, substantially as described.

3. The improved sink with lid, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

Dated this 10th day of August, 1945.
SYBIL V. WELCH.

Leamington Spa: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by the Courier Press.—1948.
Published at The Patent Office, 25, Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2, from which copies, price 1s. 0d. each (inland) 1s. 1d. (abroad) may be obtained.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

